

LEESBURG CURRENT

A publication by the City of Leesburg for residents of Leesburg, Fruitland Park and unincorporated areas served by municipal utilities.



Office of the City Manager

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Help Improve Electric Service While Lowering Your Utility Bills

You can help the City of Leesburg to develop new utility improvements aimed at conserving electricity.

The Leesburg Electric Department soon will roll out several new products that help customers to better monitor their daily energy usage, promote peak-time energy conservation and take control of electric bills like never before. Each project is part of \$20 million in improvements the utility is undergoing with support from the U.S Department of Energy and in partnership with G.E. Digital Energy – a world leader in electric distribution and utility support.



The improvements include two optional incentive rate plans that will provide better savings for participating residential customers who conserve during peak-demand periods – the time of each month when it costs the utility the most to provide electricity.

Peak times typically occur between 3 and 5 p.m. on the hottest days of the year and between 7 and 9 a.m. on the coldest days. That is when electric consumers throughout this part of Florida use the most electricity, requiring the most from large power plants to keep up with the demand. Therefore, the peaks are when power plants charge the most to provide electricity to utilities like the Leesburg Electric Department.

The cost of peak-time supply impacts a large part of every city electric customer's monthly power bill. So while the overall cost of electricity is likely to increase in coming years with global energy demand, the best way for you to manage your monthly bills is to control your own peak electric usage.

The city's new optional pricing plans can help by providing more savings incentives to conserve during the peak. Each plan, which will be available to all residential customers this fall, creates lower electric rates during 22 hours of each weekday (all observed federal holidays also will have lower rates). The two remaining hours of the day will have higher rates.

The more participating customers reduce their electric usage during peak hours, the more they save on their power bills. The new incentive plans are optional and are offered separately from the city's standard flat-rate plan.

Leesburg is looking for city electric customers to assist in implementing the incentive rates. As part of the program, participants also will be the first to use Leesburg's electric customer web portal – My Electric Profile - an informative new Internet site that provides daily updates of electric usage and estimated costs. The portal will roll out later this year and will offer a first-ever opportunity to track your electric usage each day. Check the benefits of your conservation efforts, find out when you use the most electricity, track costs and compare your progress with previous billing periods.

Those interested in assisting with the project development must be existing City of Leesburg electric customers who are capable of reducing their electric usage during peak periods. Sign up at www.leesburgflorida.gov and select the "Beat the Peak" program. You also may call the city's Customer Service Department at (352) 728-9800 to sign up and to find out more information.

The new customer web portal will be available to all electric customers this fall. The incentive rates will be offered to residential customers about the same time.

Want to save some extra money right now? The Leesburg Electric Department offers rebates for homeowners who make energy-saving improvements to their house such as replacing an old water heater with a new heat pump, solar or natural gas water heater, installing a high-efficiency air conditioning system or adding improved insulation. For more information, call the Leesburg Electric Department at (352) 728-9816 or download a rebate form at the city's website www.leesburgflorida.gov/electric.

Which Electric Plan is Right for You?

Leesburg soon will offer two optional incentive rate plans that encourage residential utility customers to conserve during the peak, when the cost of electricity is highest. These plans are offered separately from the city's standard electric rate.

Incentive plans include summer rates that apply from March through November with on-peak hours between 3 and 5 p.m. weekdays except for observed federal holidays. Winter rates apply from December through February with on-peak hours between 7 and 9 a.m. weekdays except for observed federal holidays.

TOU - R1 has the biggest price difference between off-peak and on-peak hours, so it provides the most opportunity for savings for on-peak conservation. This plan is best if you can significantly curb your peak electric usage.

TOU - R2 has less price difference between off-peak and on-peak times. This plan is best if you are uncertain how much electric usage you can curb during the peak. It provides less cost savings for conservation as well as less risk for higher bills if you don't conserve.

Below is a comparison of the standard electric rate currently used by all residential customers and the new incentive rate plans to be introduced later this year. Rates are for each kilowatt-hour used and do not include the bulk power cost adjustment, customer charge, taxes and fees.

Standard electric rate (all year) per kWh: \$0.085817

Incentive Rates per kWh (to be introduced late 2013):

	<u>TOU-R1</u>	<u>TOU-R2</u>
Winter – On-peak	\$0.404134	\$0.265005
Winter – Off-peak	\$0.060165	\$0.070985
Summer – On-peak	\$0.352527	\$0.230715
Summer – Off-peak	\$0.062573	\$0.072777